

City & County of Honolulu

Committee on Public Works & Sustainability

February 29, 2012

Bill 10 (2012) Relating to Use of Bags Provided to Customers

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My name is Chris Woolaway, and I am the State of Hawai'i coordinator of the International Coastal Cleanup which we in Hawai'i call: Get The Drift & Bag It! I apologize as testimony is deemed either in favor or opposed. My testimony focuses on what I suspect the goal of the Bill 10 is-to keep plastic bags out of the environment.

It is easy to focus on the product rather than the behavior which actually produces the litter, I realize. But we all benefit when the focus is on how to really fix the problem. We in Hawaii have been cleaning and documenting debris/litter on our beaches, parks, waterways and near shore areas as a part of the International Coastal Cleanup since 1988. Data taken since that time indicates that littering is a big problem for us along with the rest of the world. Cigarette filters are by far the most prevalent globally. In Hawai'i the top ten items we clean up and document after cigarette filters are caps and lids, food wrappers then bags both plastic and paper along with cups, straw, stirrers, cigar tips and glass bottles. All items of litter-poor behavior on our parts!

If the intent of Bill 10 is to help keep our marine and terrestrial environment clean, I would like to ask you to really consider focusing on the behavior of littering which unfortunately does seem to get enough attention.

Mahalo,

Chris Woolaway

Hawai'i State coordinator

International Coastal Cleanup